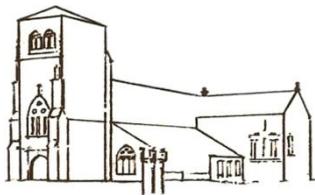


Newsletter for the parish of St. Anne & St. Bernard.



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Thirteenth Sunday of the Year

02.07.17

Today's Gospel concludes a section in Matthew's Gospel in which Jesus sends out his disciples to preach the Good News, to heal and to drive out unclean spirits. Jesus anticipates the rejection the disciples will experience and ensuing persecutions. Note there is something all embracing about the words of Jesus – it is not just his immediate disciples who have this ministry, and who will be called upon to suffer as a consequence. It is all those in the future too, who embrace God's Word. Their reward for acknowledging Jesus in the face of persecution is for them to be acknowledged by Jesus before the Father.

To preach the Gospel is to be identified with Jesus. The Messiah was expected to bring peace but with Jesus there can no superficial peace. No allegiance can shunt aside the Gospel and the Jesus it proclaims. Jesus warns us about the difficult choices his disciples may well have to make – between their God-ties and family ties. But generosity will bring a generous reward.

Notice the final words about hospitality. One who preaches the Gospel, one who has become identified with Jesus, has become a sacred presence. This sacredness may still manifest weakness, half faith, the inadequacy, the fear the disciples so often carry with them, but even a cup of water, given to one of these little ones will not go unrewarded.

Jesus calls us to join him in mission, Jesus invites us to open our eyes to see people the way he sees them. He calls us to pray for God to raise up labourers, one for each person in need, to share the Good News of the Kingdom of God with everyone. He commissions us to go where he sends us, and do what he tells us, sometimes far away, but more often than not, right under our noses – and accept the consequences.

Mass this week is as follows -

| | | |
|-----------|------------|---|
| Saturday | 5.30 p.m. | Wally Quinn |
| Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Parishioners |
| Tuesday | 12.00 noon | Kimberley's intention |
| Wednesday | 12.00 | Paula's intention |
| Thursday | 12.00 | Sr. Virginia (60 th . anniversary) |
| Friday | 12.00 | Marie Wilson |
| Saturday | 5.30 p.m. | Laura Fraser |

Some Mass intentions were handed in recently and they have been mislaid. I would be grateful if the person involved would kindly contact me.

There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Saturday 4.15-5.15 p.m. and on Sunday 9.15-10.15 a.m.

Confessions are heard during those times – and any other time you need

Justice & Peace meeting, Thursday, 6th. July at 7.30 p.m.

The next **Co-Ordination meeting** will be on 23rd. September

Next **Men's meeting** 17th. July. St. Bernard's. 7.30 p.m. All men welcome

Prayer Group every Friday at 7.30 p.m. in the Sion Room

Money Report. The collection last weekend was **£434.93**. Add on £624.80 from standing orders and tax returns to make a total of **£1,059.73** **Thank you**

Planned Giving donors please collect your letter from the church table.

Catholic Pic, special edition. To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the opening of the Metropolitan Cathedral the Catholic Pic is producing a bumper edition, and we have been sent extra copies. Please take an extra copy to give to a Catholic who would not normally receive one.

Thank you for supporting our **Fair Trade Stall**. One reason for its success is that, thanks to you volunteers, we are able to open it every Sunday. With holidays and other reasons we do need **more people** to help. You would only be needed once a month.

The **Tea and Coffee** served today, after 10.30 Mass, will be served with cakes, baked by some of the **altar servers**. As always the proceeds will go to our Lourdes Fund and to subsidise other trips where necessary. During the holiday months we will need more volunteers to help. Please see Dorothy.

Care for our common world. Today's tip – have a large bucket available into which pour the washing up water for watering the plants.

The parish **Justice and Peace** group will be meeting on Thursday, 6th. July, at 7.30 p.m. in St. Bernard's House. New members are very welcome.

Little Mick's Spot (paws for thought). I got really upset this week. A surveyor came round



looking at my field, next door to the house. We will be starting building soon, he said. My heart sank. That field has become mine in recent months. Any time, day or night, I can have a run there. The recent rain has seen lots of thick undergrowth develop, suitable for my hunting. It has complicated our

ball play but we have been in the park most days. Whoever invented those throw sticks deserves a medal. And I like to humour TD by bringing the ball back. He pays me lots of compliments. Alex has joined my walkies team. He's very welcome. My friend Mike has called around to see me a couple of times this week, - well our TDs have had business to discuss. The AA meetings are my favourite though. Those lovely ladies give me lots of spoilings. I was a bit upset when I thought that TD didn't love me enough to insure me against the various problems we little dogs can have. He assures me he does love me and will insure me this weekend. I hope you, my fans, will remind him about it. You know what he's like. I don't think he's getting past it. He just doesn't think – and about me! I'm his next of kin!

The Missionary Priests to Africa, known as **the White Fathers**, will be coming to Liverpool in September 2018. They will live in and take care of the parish of St. Vincent de Paul. There are now so many African priests that the Europeans are returning home and are exercising a ministry to the African diaspora. There will also be a liaison with Muslims and a ministry to asylum seekers.

Initial plans for the re-development of **St. Bernard's church** are being presented to the City Council. They really are quite ingenious. When they arrive I will put them in the website. They plan to build twelve dwellings within the church itself, two of them three storey houses, built within the church, using the existing front doors of the church. There will be a garden at the front. Four other dwellings will be built on the old school play ground. I am told that seventy local families have expressed an interest in purchasing them.

Live Simply Campaign. At the 10.30 a.m. Mass Collette Byrne from CAFOD will speak on the Live Simply Campaign which Cafod has organised, giving us some examples where it has been in practice and how best we can get involved.

We have just finished an excellent meeting of our **parish assembly**, excellently chaired by John, but so full of commitment and interest. Many things are happening, so much so that we desperately need more hands to help. The report will be published soon. My thanks to everyone involved and to all who came to the meeting.

Apparently in the stifling heat of Rome Pope Francis has refused to take a summer break, though his flat in Santa Marta has air conditioning. He still wakes up at 5.00 a.m., prays, celebrates Mass and works until lunch. They say he has added half hour to his siesta time. During August he'll do more of his own thing and keep out of the public eye.

One of my personal biggest concerns is the encouragement given to gambling on TV sport. I am very disappointed with Everton FC, who have always claimed the high moral ground in footballing matters, that they should accept shirt sponsorship from SportPeso, a Kenyan gambling company. They sold their soul for £75,000,000. It is therefore, good to learn that the Football Association have pulled out of a four year deal with Ladbroke's. Let's hope Everton will be shamed into following suit.

The Vatican's Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, is to hold talks with President Vladimir Putin and Russia's Orthodox Patriarch, Kirill I, during a visit in August to Moscow, where over a million citizens have braved two-mile queues to see the relics of St Nicholas since they were loaned in May by a Catholic basilica in Bari, Italy. Cardinal Parolin's visit, confirmed by Orthodox officials, will follow the Pope's historic February 2016 meeting with Patriarch Kirill in Cuba.

STAUNCHLY supported by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn five Austrian church aid organisations have pooled resources in order to help rebuild the village of Baqofa, north of Mosul, in the hope that others will follow their example and encourage Christians to return to the **Nineveh Plain**, northern Iraq. Roughly **100,000 Christians** and members of other religious minorities were driven from their homes in the Nineveh Plain by Islamic State (IS) extremists in the summer of 2014. Most fled to the Kurdistan Region and its capital, Erbil. IS forces have now been driven out of the Nineveh Plain and many of the refugees would like to return to their villages but they need help as their homes have been burnt down, looted or damaged and there is no water or electricity supply.

Peter Hennessy is Attlee professor of contemporary British History at Queen Mary University of London and a crossbench peer in the House of Lords. (from the Tablet)

What an extraordinary period we have lived through since the referendum of June 2016. Mea culpa. I got it wrong – profoundly wrong. Within the pages of The Tablet on 6 May I wrote: “I am a rotten forecaster, but I suspect Mrs May will return to Parliament atop an overall Conservative majority of just about 100 seats.” On 3 June I declared: “The result of the election on 8 June will settle the first order matter of who will be carrying on the Queen’s Government for the next five years.”

Wrong on both counts. The reasons are multiple and some were apparent by 3 June – most notably the lamentably poor Conservative campaign and the chord Jeremy Corbyn was striking with younger voters, though the question remained about how many of them would turn up at the polling stations.

But turn up they did. In the 2015 general election, 43 per cent of 18-24 year olds voted. In the European referendum a year ago last week, 65 per cent did. On 8 June, 72 per cent did. No longer could we dismiss them as the lassitude generation. The great expansion of UK higher education had finally impacted seriously on Britain’s electoral geography.

What an extraordinary period we have lived through since the European referendum of June 2016. It has been, to borrow an Oscar Wildeism, a year “crowded with incidents” at home and abroad – not least in the United States, where many Europeans watch with horrified fascination as a rogue president, Donald Trump, appears to govern partly by rant-propelled Twitter messages.

The year since the 2016 referendum has demonstrated yet again how the European question is the great slayer of top UK politicians. The result swiftly brought down David Cameron’s premiership and, as our system of representative democracy absorbed the result of our exercise of plebiscitary democracy, it lit a fuse beneath Theresa May’s premiership. The European question has now alighted upon the nature of Brexit, and soon, I suspect, it will roar into action over the amount of the exit fee the UK will be required to pay to the European Commission.

Then there is the great unbundling of what by the end of the Article 50 exit period on 31 March 2019 will be 46 years of life within the European community. One way or another, Westminster and Whitehall will have to absorb or deal with the following: 19,000 Europe-related legislative acts in force in the UK in the form of statutes or statutory instruments; 759 international agreements with 168 individual countries; since we joined what was then the European Economic Community on 1 January 1973, some 900 EU directives have shaped the UK’s economy and society.

Handling these flows will absorb copious amounts of time and nervous energy in Westminster and Whitehall, crowding out the space needed for our national and parliamentary conversations about several pressing issues: Britain’s wider place in the world (expect an updated Strategic Defence and Security Review); the viability of our health and welfare provisions (we need a comprehensive look at welfare on a scale not seen since the Beveridge Report of 1942); and the question of how we will cope with the impact of the next wave of the digital revolution on jobs (this, our ninth industrial strategy since 1945, had really better do its stuff or, whatever kind of Brexit we experience, the UK economy will be in serious long-term straits).

There are always reasons to be cheerful in an open society like ours, which has deep wells of tolerance and civility upon which it can draw. But at times of multiple political uncertainty overlaid by our reactions to what the Queen, in her birthday message, called the “sombre” events of Manchester, London Bridge and Grenfell Tower, they can seem more than a touch hidden.

Finally, historians like me are not allowed to play the game of “What if?” But I’m going to break my trade’s rules. In the 2015 general election, David Cameron pledged a European referendum by the end of 2017. Had he waited until the summer of 2017, might not the narrow result to leave have been instead a narrow win for remain?

With Trump elected in the meantime and tweeting away in the White House, it is at least possible that some of the referendum voters could have concluded there was quite enough instability swirling around without creating more by a Brexit from the EU.

